user groups. --

Please replace the paragraph on Page 26, lines 1 - 5 with the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

-- While the preferred embodiments of the present invention have been described, additional variations and modifications in those embodiments may occur to those skilled in the art once they learn of the basic inventive concepts. Therefore, it is intended that the appended claims shall be construed to include both the preferred ~~embodiment~~ embodiments and all such variations and modifications as fall within the spirit and scope of the invention. --

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Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph on Page 23, lines 2 - 9 with the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

-- By grouping permissions by roles for purposes of security policy administration, as disclosed herein, the administration process is made more efficient and less error-prone. Adding and removing new resources will no longer require changing the access control entries associated with those resources. Instead, resources (and the actions on them) can be added or removed directly from a role security object association without affecting the protection matrix (wherein users and user groups are associated with roles). Role assignments to [[user]] users or user groups can therefore remain constant; application security policy changes simply affect what permissions are associated with the roles. --

Please replace the paragraph on Page 23, lines 10 - 18 with the following marked-up replacement paragraph:

-- Using the prior art approach, if a permission should be granted to a pre-existing group, then this grant can only be achieved by (1) creating a new group with the name of the role associated with the resource, and [[(b)]] (2) associating ~~associated~~ the pre-existing group to be a member of the newly-created group. This requires support for nested groups in the underlying user registry. (For example, if a newly-installed application allows access to users who are members of a "Managers" group, but the enterprise has defined those users as being members of the "Supervisors" group, then the Supervisors group has to be made a child of a newly-created Managers group.) The technique of the present invention does not require support for nested

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